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In Our Opinion A Red Theory Seen Reversed

AN OLD COMMUNIST maxim teaches that capitalism carries within itself the seeds of its own destruction. In other words, according to this theory, the Commies need only to give capitalism enough rope and it will hang itself.

Allen W. Dulles, director of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency, recently pointed out that the theory may apply better to Communism than to capitalism or democracy. He believes that the leaders of Soviet Russia are undermining their own dictatorial control by means of improved education of their people.

"In introducing mass education, the troubled Soviet leaders have loosed forces dangerous to themselves," he said in a speech prepared for Columbia University's Commencement-day luncheon.

"Ultimately, however much the Soviets condition a man's mind, however narrowly they permit it to develop, and however much they seek to direct him after he is trained, they cannot in the end prevent him from exercising that critical sense that they, themselves, have caused to be drilled in him when they gave him an education."

That poses an interesting possibility. It is that Soviet Russia has made some rather remarkable strides in providing education. In fact, Dulles pointed out that Russia now is turning out more university graduates in the sciences than we are. Between 1950 and 1960, they will graduate some 1,200,000 young people in engineering and the sciences compared to about 100,000

the Soviet system now is comparable to our own in quality of training and number of students. Their top men, according to the CIA, appear to be equal to the top men in the West, although they have fewer of them, level for level.

It seems inevitable, as Dulles points out, that such a development of education must be accompanied by a growth of what he calls a "critical sense." The smarter and better informed they become, the easier will it be for them to detect the duplicity and contradictions in Communist thinking and they more likely will they be to make comparisons. And the more they compare Communism and its political and economic aspects to democracy and capitalism, the more disillusioned they should become with their own lot.

This process can be encouraged only by providing them with a basis for comparison. Not many of them will ever be permitted to travel and see and compare for themselves. That means that the West will have to provide that basis in other ways -- by continuing to hammer away with radio broadcasts, pamphlets, and other means of communication.

If such a program is intelligently carried out, it may well be that some day it can be proved that Communist theory is a self-defeating

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